

Block Island

National Wildlife Refuge

Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)
Senator Lincoln D. Chafee (R)
Rep. James Langevin (D-2nd)

Contact

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Block Island National Wildlife Refuge is one of five national wildlife refuges in the Rhode Island Complex.

Purpose

Block Island National Wildlife Refuge was established for particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program.

Public Use Notes

- Open to surf fishing
- .5 miles of walkable shoreline
- Wildlife/nature photography
- Renowned for birding during song bird migration

Management Activities

- Comprehensive Conservation Plan completed in spring 2002
- Land protection plan targets 95 acres for land acquisition
- Lead in cooperative, interagency-financed, island-wide piping plover program
- Cooperatively planning public uses
- Restoring Beane Point facility for environmental education and employee housing
- Assisting North Lighthouse by developing piping plover display
- New complex-wide \$2.6 million office and visitor center building in Charlestown scheduled to open in fall 2004

Highlights

The refuge is world-renowned for its unusually high density of migratory songbirds in spring and fall, with over 70 species recorded at one time.

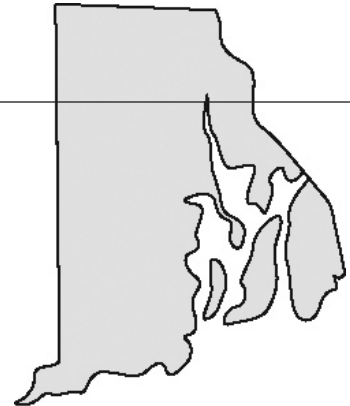
The refuge has the island lead in the piping plover restoration program.

The refuge has an active and involved cadre of volunteers, and an award-winning Friends group.

The refuge enjoys strong partnerships with non-government organizations.

The refuge is home to the federally listed threatened American burying beetle.

The refuge is pursuing a collaborative management program involving state, town and conservation organizations.



Block Island NWR

Issues

High cost of land acquisition

Refuge is unstaffed due to budgetary constraints

Isolated parcels make management difficult

Reducing the spread of invasive species

Management of barrier beaches in high public-use areas, including off-road vehicle use

Implementing seasonal closures on barrier beach with limited law enforcement

Managing incompatible public uses

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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